

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

It is asserted that these amendments do not add new matter and are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Entry of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-19, 23-26, 29, 30, 32 and 34-40 have been rejected.

Claims 27 and 28 are objected to.

Claims 17, 18, 23-25, and 27-29 have been amended.

Claim 30 is kept unchanged.

Claims 15, 16, 19, 26, 29, and 34-40 have been canceled.

Claims 17, 18, 23-25, and 27-30 are pending in the application.

Allowable claim 27 have been merged with claims 26 and 15, allowable claim 28 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 27, and claims 17, 18, 23-25 and 29 have also been amended to become dependent upon claim 27.

The rejection of claims 15-19, 23-26, 29, 30, 32 and 34-40 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as obvious over GB 897,973 is now moot, because claims 15-19, 23-26, 29, 30, 32 and 34-40, have been canceled.

Objected claims 27 and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected claim, have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

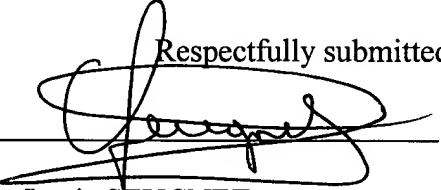
RN98173
Serial number 09/857,578
AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

In view of the preceding remarks, it is asserted that the patent application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any question concerning these remarks that would further advance prosecution of the claims to allowance, the examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned agent at (609) 860-4180. A notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

July 09, 2004

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DoRN98173.Finalamend

Respectfully submitted,
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